

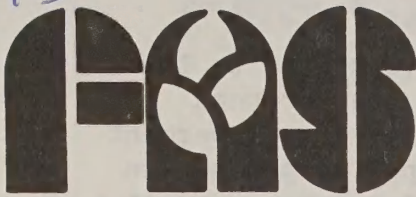
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REPORT

United States
Department of
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WEEKLY ROUNDUP OF WORLD PRODUCTION AND TRADE

Supplement 6-83

WASHINGTON, June 15--The Foreign Agricultural Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture today reported the following recent developments in U.S. agricultural trade:

U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

U.S. agricultural exports during April 1983 totaled \$3.0 billion, down 14 percent from the same month a year earlier. Total agricultural export volume in April -- 12.0 million tons -- was more than 2.5 millions tons or 18 percent below the year-earlier level. Lower wheat and corn shipments -- each down about 1 million tons from last April -- accounted for most of the decline. The corn export price continued to rise in April as it had since the beginning of the current fiscal year. Wheat and soybean export prices also strengthened in April from March levels, but April prices for both commodities still stood below year-earlier levels.

Total agricultural exports during the first 7 months (October-April) of fiscal 1983 were valued at \$21.1 billion, down 16 percent from the first seven months of fiscal 1982. Total agricultural export volume during the first 7 months of fiscal 1983 totaled 90 million tons, down 9 percent from the year-earlier period. Smaller wheat and coarse grain shipments account for most of the decline. Total agricultural exports for the full fiscal year are forecast at \$35.5 billion, down 9 percent from fiscal 1982.

U.S. exports of wheat in April fell nearly 1 million tons or 24 percent in volume from April 1982 to 3.1 million tons, reflecting lower shipments to China and most other major markets (except India). The April wheat export unit value of \$165 per ton was 2 percent lower than a year earlier. The total value of wheat exports for April was down 26 percent. The wheat export volume for October-April of 22.2 million tons was down 18 percent or about 5 million tons, while value dropped 23 percent to \$3.6 billion.

April exports of U.S. corn declined 19 percent in volume compared with a year earlier to 4.0 million tons, primarily reflecting a 1 million ton decline to the Soviet Union. Exports to Mexico and East Asia, however, were up significantly. The corn export unit value of \$125 a ton was up 4 percent from last April's level. The total value of corn exports declined 15 percent over the previous April. Corn export volume for the first 7 months of fiscal 1983 was down 4 percent from the year-earlier level to 29.7 million tons, with value off 13 percent to \$3.3 billion.

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Soybean shipments in April declined 14 percent (compared to last April) to 2.0 million tons, reflecting smaller shipments to the European Community. Soybean export prices in April -- at \$237 a ton -- were 7 percent lower than a year earlier. Total soybean export value dropped 20 percent in April compared with a year earlier. Soybean export volume for October-April was down 1 percent from the year-earlier level to 16.6 million tons, with value down 12 percent to \$3.8 billion.

Export volumes and values were above April a year ago for beef, wheat flour, feeds and fodders, soybean oil, fresh fruit, and tobacco, among others. Volumes and values were below April a year ago for rice, soybean meal, cotton, poultry meat, and tallow, among others.

U.S. AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS

The value of U.S. agricultural imports in April 1983 increased 23 percent over the same month a year ago and totaled \$1.5 billion. This increase brought imports for the first 7 months of fiscal 1983 to \$9.6 billion -- 8 percent above the first seven months of fiscal 1982.

Import values were up for all major commodity groups in April 1983, mostly because of higher prices. Sugar and tropical product imports of \$522 million and horticultural product imports of \$461 million were up 26 and 21 percent respectively.

Cocoa beans and fresh vegetables were among several products recording sharp value increases during April. Imports of cocoa climbed 92 percent over the same month a year earlier because of the replenishing of reduced inventories. Cocoa importers are also covering their future needs prior to possible price increases later this year. A prolonged drought this past winter in West Africa is expected to reduce future supplies. Increased fresh vegetable imports during April 1983 were due to large shipments of tomatoes from Mexico. Devaluation of the Mexican peso produced an improved competitive position in the U.S. market. However, the surge in April tomato shipments resulted from a marketing delay caused by late planting and increased production in Mexico.

For the October 1982-April 1983 period, imports of horticultural products were up 13 percent to \$2.8 billion; livestock, up 15 percent to \$1.8 billion; and dairy products, up 16 percent to \$387 million. Sugar and tropical product imports declined 1 percent during this period to \$3.6 billion.

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All World Grain Situation/Outlook Circulars are available at 9:00 a.m. of the day designated. All other FAS circular reports listed above are available after 3 p.m. on the day of release from FAS Information Services Staff, Room 5918 South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Telephone (202) 447-7937.

¹ Available from FAS, Information Division, Room 5918 South Building.

² Prepared jointly by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, Economic Research Service and the World Agricultural Outlook Board. Limited number of copies and subscription information are available from the World Agricultural Outlook Board Room 5143 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250. Telephone (202) 447-5447.

³ On day of release copies available from USDA Press Service.

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